

Tausug language

Tausug (Tausug: *Bahasa Sūg*, *Malay: Bahasa Suluk*) is an Austronesian language spoken in the province of Sulu in the Philippines, and in the eastern area of the state of Sabah, Malaysia by the Tausug people.

It is widely spoken in the Sulu Archipelago (Tawi-Tawi), Zamboanga Peninsula (Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Zamboanga del Sur, and Zamboanga City), Southern Palawan and Malaysia (eastern Sabah). Tausug and Chavacano are the only Philippine languages spoken on the island of Borneo.

The Tausug language is very closely related to the Surigaonon language of the provinces Surigao del Norte, Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur, and to the Butuanon language of Agusan del Norte.

Contents
Etymology
Phonology
Vowels
Consonants
Script
Latin
Arabic
Grammar
Pronouns
Personal pronouns
Demonstratives
Case markers
Existentials
Interrogative words
Verbs
Numbers
Examples
Loanwords
See also
References
Bibliography
Further reading

Tausug	
Bahasa Sūg بهاس سُوگ	
Native to	Philippines, Malaysia
Region	— Spoken throughout the Sulu Archipelago and eastern Sabah — Also spoken in Zamboanga City
Ethnicity	Tausug
Native speakers	1.1 million (2000) ^[1]
Language family	Austronesian - Malayo-Polynesian - Philippine - Greater Central Philippine - Central Philippine - Bisayan - Southern Bisayan Tausug
Writing system	Latin (Malay alphabet) Arabic (Jawi)
Official status	
Official language in	Regional language in the Philippines
Regulated by	Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	tsg
Glottolog	taus1251 (http)

Etymology

The name of the language in Tausug is *bahasa Sūg* ("language of Sulu"). Tausug (Tausug: *tau Sūg*, "people of Sulu") is derived from two words: *tau* ("person") and *sūg* ("current"), presumably referring to their economic livelihood that depends on the strong currents of the Sulu Sea, where they used to trans-navigate as fishermen, pearl divers and traders.

Even today, the Sulu Sea is still the strategic trade route of the southern Philippines and the nearby ASEAN nations. As early as the 10th century, the trade route between Sulu and China and North Borneo is believed to have been already flourishing. The people in the area were known as the "people of the current", the literal translation of "Tausūg".

Phonology

Vowels

Tausug has three vowel phonemes: /a/, /i/, /u/, with phonemic length (e.g. *īpun* "shrimp" vs. *ipun* "tooth"). Stress is not phonemic and usually occurs on the final syllable.^[3]

The vowel phonemes have a broad range of allophones:^[4]

- /a/: [a, e, ɑ]
- /i/: [i, ɪ]
- /u/: [u, ʊ, ʏ, ʌ, ə]

Consonants

The consonant phonemes are:^[5]

		<u>Labial</u> <u>Labiodental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n		ŋ	
<u>Plosive</u> <u>Affricate</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p	t		k	ʔ
	<u>voiced</u>	b	d	ɟ̟ <j>	g	
<u>Fricative</u>		f	s			h
<u>Approximant</u>			l	j <y>	w	
<u>Trill</u>			r			

Allophones:^[4]



- /b/: per default [b], but [β] between vowels
- /g/: per default [g], but [ɣ] between vowels
- /h/: per default [h], but [ħ] between vowels
- /r/: per default [r], but [ɾ] before /m,n,g,k/

Medial gemination (of all non-glottal consonants) is phonemic.^[4]

Script

The Tausūg language was previously written with the Arabic alphabet. The script used was inspired by the use of Jawi in writing the Malay language.

An example of the Arabic alphabet in writing the Tausūg language:

- **Latin script** – Wayruun tuhan malaingkan Allāh, hi Muhammad ing rasūl sin Allāh
- **Arabic script** – وَيْرُوْنُ تُهْنُ مَلِيْكُنْ هَالله، هَمْمُذَنْغُ رَسُوْلُ سِيْغِ الله
- **English translation** – There is no god but Allah, Muhammad is the Messenger of Allah

The Arabic script used to write the Tausug language differs in some aspects to the script used for the Arabic language and in the Jawi script used for Malay languages. One of the main differences is in the way that word-initial vowels are written.

In Arabic, /in/ is (إِن); in Jawi (Malay), it is (اِن). In Tausug, it is (يِن). The Tausug Arabic script utilises the letter yā' with a hamza (يْ) to represent a short vowel. If a kasra (يِ) is added, it becomes an 'i' sound. If a fatha (يَ) is added, it becomes an 'a' sound. If a damma (يُ) is added, it becomes a 'u' sound.

Latin

Tausug Alphabet

Letter	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>H</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>K</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>M</u>
Name	<i>Alip</i>	<i>bā'</i>	<i>dāl</i>	<i>gā'</i>	<i>hā'</i>	<i>ī</i>	<i>jīm</i>	<i>kāp</i>	<i>lām</i>	<i>mīm</i>
IPA	/a/	/b/, /β/	/d/	/g/, /ɣ/	/h/, /ħ/	/i/	/dʒ/	/k/	/l/	/m/
Letter	<u>N</u>	<u>Ng</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>R</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>T</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>'</u>
Name	<i>nūn</i>	<i>ngā'</i>	<i>pā'</i>	<i>rā'</i>	<i>sīn</i>	<i>tā'</i>	<i>ū</i>	<i>wāw</i>	<i>yā'</i>	<i>hamja</i>
IPA	/n/	/ŋ/	/p/	/r/, /ɾ/	/s/	/t/	/u/	/w/	/j/	/ʔ/

Arabic

Tausug Alphabet – Arabic Script

Character	Isolated	Initial	Medial	Final	Name
ا	ا			ا	alip
ب	ب	ب	ب	ب	bā'
ت	ت	ت	ت	ت	tā'
ج	ج	ج	ج	ج	jīm
د	د			د	dāl
ر	ر			ر	rā'
س	س	س	س	س	sīn
غ	غ	غ	غ	غ	gayn
ڠ	ڠ	ڠ	ڠ	ڠ	ngā'
ف	ف	ف	ف	ف	pā'
ک	ک	ک	ک	ک	kāp
گ	گ	گ	گ	گ	gāp
ل	ل	ل	ل	ل	lām
م	م	م	م	م	mīm
ن	ن	ن	ن	ن	nūn
و	و			و	wāw
ه	ه	ه	ه	ه	hā'
ي	ي	ي	ي	ي	yā'
ء	ء			ء	hamja
أ	أ			أ	alip with hamja above
ؤ	ؤ			ؤ	wāw with hamja above
					yā' with hamja above

ل	ل	ا	ا	ا	
ل	ل	ل	ل	ل	lām alip

Grammar

Pronouns

Personal pronouns

Tausug has three pronouns sets:^[6]

	nominative	genitive	oblique
1st person singular	aku	ku	kaku'
1st person dual	kita	ta	katu'
2nd person singular	ikaw, kaw	mu	kaymu
3rd person singular	siya	niya	kaniya
1st person plural inclusive	kitaniyu	taniyu	katu'niyu, katu'natu'
1st person plural exclusive	kami	namu	kamu'
2nd person plural	kamu	niyu	kaniyu
3rd person plural	sila	nila	kanila

Demonstratives

Case markers

The case markers of Tausug are:^[7]

	nominative	genitive	oblique
<u>common</u>	in	sin	ha
<u>proper singular</u>	hi		kay
<u>proper plural</u>	hinda'		kanda'

Non-subject undergoers take the oblique marker when definite or a proper noun, but indefinite common nouns take the genitive marker *sin*.

- *Hi Nasul in kimaun **ha** mampallam.* "It was Nasul who ate the mango."
- *Nagdakdak **sin** baju' in manga bujang.* "The maidens washed clothes."

Existentials

The positive existential ("there is") is *aun*, the negative existential ("there is none") is *way*.^[8]

Interrogative words

English	Tausug
Who?	Hisiyu? ^[9]
What?	Unu?
Where?	Diin? or Hain?
Why?	Mayta’?
When? (future)	Ku'nu?
When? (past)	Ka'nu?
How? (manner)	Biya'diin?
How many?	Pila?

Verbs

Verbs in Tausug are inflected for focus and aspect.^[10]

	completed	progressive	contemplative	imperative
Actor focus	⟨im⟩ nag- naN-	C⟨im⟩V- nag-CV- naN-CV-	⟨um⟩ mag- maN-	Ø Ø paN-
Patient focus	⟨i⟩	C⟨i⟩V-	-un	-a
Locative focus	⟨i⟩ -an	C⟨i⟩V- -an	-an	-i
Instrument focus	⟨i⟩	C⟨i⟩V-	hi-	-an

Affixes expressing ability:

	completed	progressive	contemplative
Actor focus	naka-	nakaka-	maka-
Patient focus	na-	na-CV-	ma-
Locative focus	kia- -an	kia-CV- -an	ka- -an
Instrument focus	kia-	kia-CV-	hika-

Numbers

Tausug numerals:^{[9][11]}

	Tausug
1	isa / hambūk
2	duwa
3	tū
4	upat
5	lima
6	unum
7	pitu
8	walu
9	siyam
10	hangpū'
11	hangpū' tag isa
20	kawha'an
30	katlu'an
40	kapatan
50	kayman
60	kanuman
70	kapituwan
80	kawaluwan
90	kasiyaman
100	hanggatus
1,000	hangibu

Examples

English	Tausug Latin Script	Tausug Arabic Script
What is your name?	Unu in ngān mu?	أَنْ تِنْ غَانْ مُ؟
My name is Muhammad	In ngān ku Muhammad	تِنْ غَانْ كُ مُحَمَّدْ
How are you?	Maunu-unu nakaw?	مَوْنُغَانْ نَكُو؟
I am good	Marayaw da isab	مَرَيَو دَ تِسَبْ
Where is Ahmad?	Hawnu hi Ahmad?	هَوْنُ هِ أَحْمَدْ؟
He is in the house	Ha bāy siya	هَ بَايِ سِيَا
Thank you	Magsukul	مَغْسُكُلْ

Loanwords

Many Tausug words derive from the Arabic language.

Some examples of Arabic words in Tausug are

Tausug Word	Meaning (Tausug)	Arabic Word	Pronunciation	Meaning (Arabic)
Adab	manners	أَدَب	adab	manners
Ahirat	Hereafter	آخِرَة	ākhirah	hereafter
Ajayb	amazing	عَجِيب	'ajīb	amazing
Akkal	intelligence	عَقْل	'Aql	intellect
Alam	universe	عَالَم	'ālam	world
Allāh	God	الله	Allāh	God
Amānat	message	أَمَانَة	amānah	trust
Ammal	use	عَمَل	'amal	to make
Awal	origin	أَوَّل	awwal	first
Awliya	ascetic	أَوْلِيَاء	<u>awliyā'</u>	ascetics
Ayat	verse	آيَة	āyah	verse
Ayb	shame	عَيْب	'ayb	shame
Barawi	Desert robber	بَدَوِي	badawī	bedouin
Batāl	unclean	بَاطِل	bātil	void
Bilāl	Muezzin/caller to prayer	بِلَال	Bilāl	<u>Bilal ibn Rabah</u>
Daawa	excuse/alibi	دَعْوَة	da'wah	invitation
Duhul	extremity	دُخُول	dukhūl	entrance
Daira	city	دَائِرَة	dā'irah	area
Dayyus	cuckold	دَيَّوْث	dayyūth	cuckold
Dunya	earth	دُنْيَا	dunyā	world
Duwaa	prayer	دُعَاء	du'ā	prayer/supplication
Habal	news	خَبَر	khabar	news

Hadas	impurity	حدث	hadath	impurity
Hakīka	birth ritual	عقيقة	aqīqah	birth ritual
Hakīkat	truth	حقيقة	haqīqah	truth
Hatīb	speaker	خطيب	khatīb	speaker
Hawa	Eve	حواء	Hawā'	Eve
Hidāyat	announcement	هداية	hidāyah	guidance
Hikmat	wisdom	حكمة	hikmah	wisdom
Hukum	judge	حكم	hukm	ruling
Humus	alms	خمس	khums	fifth
Hutba'	sermon	خطبة	khutbah	sermon
Hurup	sound of a letter	حروف	hurūf	letters
Iblīs	demon	إبليس	Iblīs	devil
Ihlās	sincerity	إخلاص	ikhlās	sincerity
Ijin	blessing	إذن	idhn	permission
Ilmu'	knowledge	علم	'ilm	knowledge
Imān	forbearingness	إيمان	īmān	faith
Intiha'	end	إنتهى	intihā	end
Irādat	determination	إرادة	irādah	determination
Islām	Islam	إسلام	Islām	<u>Islam</u>
Istigapar	to beg pardon	إستغفار	istighfār	to beg pardon
Instinja	pure	إستنجاء	istinjā'	to clean one's self
Jabūr	Psalms	زبور	zabūr	Psalms
Jāhil	foolish	جاهل	jāhil	ignorant

Jakāt	tithe	زكاة	zakāh	tithe
Jamāa	congregation	جماعة	jamā'ah	congregation
Jamān	clock	زمان	zamān	time
Janāja	bier	جنازة	janāzah	funeral
Jāt	appearance	ذات	dhāt	self
Jaytūn	olive	زيتون	zaytūn	olive
Jin	spirit	جن	jinn	demon
Jinā	adultery	زنا	zinā	adultery
Juba	garment	جبة	jubbah	garment
Jubul	anus	دبر	dubr	anus
Junub	pollution	جنوب	junūb	dirty
Jurriyat	lineage	ذرية	dhurriyyah	offspring
Kahawa	coffee	قهوة	qahwah	coffee
Kāpil	disbeliever	كافر	kāfir	disbeliever
Karāmat	miracle	كرامة	karāmah	miracle
Kawwāt	power	قوة	quwwah	force
Kubul	grave	قبور	qubūr	graves
Kudarat	Power of God	قدرة	qudrah	ability
Kulbān	sacrifice	قربان	qurbān	sacrifice
Kuppiya'	male head covering	كوفية	kūffiyah	kefiyyeh
Kupul	disbelief	كفر	kufr	disbelief
Lidjiki'	blessing	رزق	rizq	sustenance
Maana	meaning		ma'nah	meaning

		معنة		
Magrib	sunset	مغرب	maghrib	sunset
Magsukul	Thanks	شكر	shukr	thanks
Mahluk	human	مخلوق	maklūq	created
Maksud	purpose	مقصود	maqsūd	intended
Makbul	fulfilled	مقبول	maqbūl	accepted
Malak	Beautiful	ملك	malak	<u>Angel</u>
Maruhum	deceased	مرحوم	marhūm	deceased
Masrik	east	مشرق	mashriq	east
Matakaddam	parable	متقدم	mutaqaddam	preceding
Mayat	corpse	ميت	mayt	dead
Mujijat	mystery	معجزة	mu'jizah	miracle
Mulid	pupil	مرید	murīd	pupil
Munapik	hypocrite	منافق	munāfiq	hypocrite
Murtad	apostate	مرتد	murtad	apostate
Muskil	uncommon	مشكل	mushkil	problem
Mustahak	lawful owner	مستحق	mustahaqq	deserving
Mustajab	occurred	مستجاب	mustajāb	answered
Muwallam	scholar	معلم	mu'allim	teacher
Nabī	prophet	نبي	nabī	prophet
Najal	promise	نذر	nadhar	vow/promise
Najjis	filth	ناجس	nājis	filthy
Napas	breath	نفس	nafas	breathe

Napsu	desire	نفس	nafs	ego/desire
Nasihah	advice	نصيحة	nasīhah	advice
Paham	familiarity	فهم	fahm	understanding
Pardu'	legislation	فرض	fard	compulsory
Piil	action	فعل	fi'l	action
Pikil	think	فكر	fikr	thought
Pir'awn	Pharaoh	فرعون	fir'awn	Pharaoh
Rahmat	blessing	رحمة	rahmah	mercy
Rasūl	messenger	رسول	rasūl	messenger
Ruku'	bow	ركوع	rukū'	bowing
Rukun	precept	ركن	rukṇ	pillar
Sabab	because	سبب	sabab	reason/cause
Sahabat	follower	صحابية	sahābah	companions
Saytān	Satan	شیطان	shaytān	Satan
Sual	discussion	سؤال	su'āl	question
Subu	dawn	صبح	subh	dawn
Sunnat	female circumcision	سنة	sunnah	tradition/sunnah
Takabbul	arrogant	تكبر	takabbur	arrogance
Takwīm	calendar	تقويم	taqwīm	calendar
Tallak	divorce	طلاق	talāq	divorce
Tarasul	Tausug poem	تراسل	tarāsul	correspondence
Tasbi	prayer beads	تسبیح	tasbīh	praise
Ummul	age		'amr	age

		عمر		
Wajib	compulsory	واجب	wājib	compulsory
Wakap	pause	وقف	waqf	pause
Waktu	time	وقت	waqt	time

Tausug words derived from Sanskrit

Tausug Word	Meaning (Tausug)	Sanskrit Word	Pronunciation	Meaning (Sanskrit)
Guru	teacher	गुरु	guru	teacher
Naga	dragon	नाग	nāga	serpent
Āgama	religion	आगम	āgama	religion
Lahu'	eclipse	राहु	rāhu	eclipse
Lupa	appearance	रूप	rūpa	appearance
Dukka	grieve	दुःख	duḥkha	suffering
Sutla'	silk	सूत्र	sūtra	to sew/thread

See also

- Languages of the Philippines
- Yakan
- Bikol
- Cebuano
- Chavacano
- Hiligaynon
- Kapampangan
- Ilocano
- Pangasinan
- Bisayan languages
- Waray-Waray

References

1. Tausug (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/tsg/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Tausug" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/taus1251>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Peneyra (1992), pp. 1–2.
4. Tan, Evangeline K. (1967). "The phonology of Tausug: a descriptive analysis" (<https://open.library.ubc.ca/media/download/pdf/831/1.0105420/1>). *open.library.ubc.ca*. M.A.Thesis, University of British Columbia. p. 16.

5. Peneyra (1992), p. 1.
6. Peneyra (1992), pp. 4–5.
7. Peneyra (1992), pp. 7; 14–15.
8. Peneyra (1992), p. 32.
9. Zorc, David Paul (1977). *The Bisayan Dialects of the Philippines: Subgrouping and Reconstruction* (<https://archive.org/details/bisayandialectso0044zorc>). Canberra, Australia: Dept. of Linguistics, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University. doi:10.15144/PL-C44 (<https://doi.org/10.15144%2FPL-C44>). ISBN 0858831570.
10. Peneyra (1992), pp. 35–47.
11. [1] (<https://mpi-lingweb.shh.mpg.de/numeral/Tausug.htm>)

Bibliography

- Peneyra, Irma V. (1992). *A grammatical sketch of the Tausug language*. The Archive, Publication 6. Diliman: University of the Philippines.

Further reading

- Sundita, Christopher Allen (2002). *In Bahasa Sug: An Introduction to Tausug*. Lobel & Tria Partnership, Co. ISBN 971-92226-6-2.
- Cameron, C. R. (1917). *Sulu Writing, an Explanation of the Sulu-Arabic Script as Employed in Writing the Sulu Language of the Southern Philippines* (<http://name.umd.umich.edu/afu8764.001.001>). Zamboanga: The Sulu Press.

External links

- Publications in Tausūg and other Philippine languages (http://www.sil.org/asia/philippines/plb_download.html#Tlink)
- Tausug-English Dictionary of SIL International (<https://tausug.webonary.org/?lang=en>). online version accessible from Webonary.org.
- Tausug Language (<http://iloko.tripod.com/Tausug.htm>) by Dr. Carl G. Rubino
- Bansa.org Tausug Dictionary (http://www.bansa.org/?q=dictionaries/cmd&dict_lang=Tausug)
- Tausug English Glossary (<http://www.languagelinks.org>) Search for common Tausug Words
- Tausug 101 (<http://tausug101.blogspot.com>) by Anak Iluh

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Tausug_language&oldid=962508881"

This page was last edited on 14 June 2020, at 13:23 (UTC).

Text is available under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License; additional terms may apply. By using this site, you agree to the [Terms of Use and Privacy Policy](#). Wikipedia® is a registered trademark of the [Wikimedia Foundation, Inc.](#), a non-profit organization.